

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5341

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007

CHILD MARRIAGE BILL

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the average age of Indian girls getting married as per the report of National Family Health Survey, state-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether there has been any change in the trend after the introduction of Prevention of Child Marriage Law;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory- wise;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the extent to which the said Law has been able to increase the average age of girl marriage;
- (f) the percentage of literacy among married girl children the country, State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and
- (g) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst the married girl children?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) was conducted in 29 States during December, 2005 to August, 2006. As per provisional results of key indicators of National Family Health Survey (2005- 06), at All Indian level 44.5% of the women age 20-24 are married by 18 years of age. As per National Family Health Survey-2 (NFHS- 2) (1998-99), the median age at first marriage at the national level is 16.4. A Statement showing State-wise percentage of women age 20-24 married by age 18 years as NFHS-3 and median age at first marriage as per NFHS-2 is given in Annexure-I.

(b),(c),(d)&(e) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" has been notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007.

(f)&(g) As per National Family Health Survey, these surveys have not been conducted.

Annexure -1

States	Women age 20-24 married		Median age at	
by age 18 (%)	first Marriage			
NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-3 (1998-99)	NFHS (1998-99)		
India	44.5	50.0	16.4	
Andhra Pradesh	54.7	64.3	15.1	
Arunachal Pradesh	40.6	27.6	18.7	
Assam	38.0	40.7	18.1	
Bihar	60.3	44.3	14.9	
Chhattisgarh	51.8	61.3	na	
Delhi	21.2	19.8	19.0	
Goa	11.7	10.1	23.2	
Gujarat	33.5	40.7	17.6	
Haryana	39.8	41.5	16.9	
Himachal Pradesh	12.3	10.7	18.6	
Jammu & Kashmir	14.0	22.1	18.2	
Jharkhand	61.2	64.1	na	
Karnataka	41.2	46.3	16.8	
Kerala	15.4	17.0	20.2	
Maharashtra	38.8	47.7	16.4	
Madhya Pradesh	53.0	64.7	14.7	

Manipur	12.7	9.9	21.7
Meghalaya	24.5	25.5	19.1
Mizoram	20.6	11.6	22.0
Nagaland	21.1	22.9	20.1
Orissa	36.3	37.6	17.5
Punjab	19.4	11.6	20.0
Rajasthan	57.1	68.3	15.1
Sikkim	30.1	22.3	19.8
Tamilnadu	21.5	24.9	18.7
Tripura	41.0	37.7	na
Uttar Pradesh	53.0	64.3	15.0
Uttaranchal	22.6	25.9	na
West Bengal	53.3	45.9	16.8

na - Not available